

Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board

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NEWS RELEASE

FASAB PUBLISHES CONCEPTS STATEMENT AND ACCOUNTING STANDARD AFFECTING THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

The Chairman of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB), David Mosso, announced today that the FASAB has issued Statement of Federal Accounting Concepts (SFFAC) 4, *Intended Audience and Qualitative Characteristics for the Consolidated Financial Report of the United States Government*, and Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards (SFFAS) 24, *Selected Standards for the Consolidated Financial Report of the United States Government*.

SFFAC 4 identifies the primary audience of the Consolidated Financial Report of the US Government (CFR) as external users represented by citizens and their intermediaries. Further, it describes the characteristics of the audience and the qualitative characteristics FASAB believes will aid in meeting the financial reporting objectives of the CFR. Finally, the concepts document provides that the CFR should be a "general purpose" report that should be highly understandable and timely.

SFFAS 24 states for the first time that all SFFAS's apply to all Federal entities (including the consolidated Governmentwide entity) unless a standard specifically provides otherwise. In addition, it clarifies that the Statement of Budgetary Resources and Statement of Financing, while relevant for agencies executing the budget, are not required for the Governmentwide CFR. However, SFFAS 24 requires new statements for the CFR, but not for agencies or departments. The new statements provide information on net operating revenue (or cost), budget surplus (or deficit), and cash. The new statements are principal CFR financial statements and are to be presented on a comparative basis.

Electronic versions of SFFAC 4 and SFFAS 24 are available on the World Wide Web at www.fasab.gov. Printed copies of the statements have been mailed to those on the FASAB print mailing list and can be obtained from FASAB by calling 202-512-7350.

Questions on SFFAC 4 and SFFAS 24 should be directed to FASAB staff member Richard Fontenrose at 202-512-7358 or fontenroser@fasab.gov.